

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 MC-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 FBI-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080538

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS: BF

SUBJECT: ABACO SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT
IN

1. BRITISH EMBOFF PRESENTED FOLLOWING AIDE- MEMOIRE TO
DEPARTMENT APRIL 27: QUOTE:

ANTI- BAHAMIAN INDEPENDENCE ACTIVITIES BY UNITED
STATES CITIZENS. HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY HAVE
BEEN ASKED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
BAHAMAS: - IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BAHAMAS
GOVERNMENT THAT REPORTS HAVE APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS WITH
NATIONAL CIRCULATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, NAMELY THE
DAILY MIRROR AND THE GUARDIAN OF THE 23 AND 24 APRIL RE-
SPECTIVELY , OF ANTI- BAHAMIAN INDEPENDENCE ACTIVITIES OF
PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE UNITED STATES CITIZENS.
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THESE NEWSREPORTS APPEAR UNDER THE HEADLINES " MUTINY IN
PARADISE IN THE DAILY MIRROR, AND " ARMS DEALER HERE TO
HELP COLONY" IN THE GUARDIAN AND IDENTIFY TWO PERSONS AS
UNITED STATES CITIZENS, AN ATTORNEY 44 YEARS OLD, EDWIN
MARGER, CLAIMING TO REPRESENT " THE COUNCIL FOR A FREE
ABACO" AND 55 YEAR OLD MITCHELL BELL, AN ARMS DEALER.

THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT HAS FURTHER UNCONFIRMED INFORMATION
TO THE EFFECT THAT EDWIN MARGER IS A FLORIDA ATTORNEY

AND MITCHELL BELL THE PRESIDENT OF DEFENCE SYSTOMMON-
WEALTH CARIBBEAN, ALTHOUGH WE CERTAINLY INTEND TO CONTINUE
TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE
CARIBBEAN. AFTER EXPIRATION OF 30 DAY PERIOD WE CONSIDER

IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE REPORT ON DAMAGE AND TO PROCEED WITH
WITHDRAWAL IF NO SOLUTION FOUND.

2. MISSION MAY NOTE INFORMALLY THAT WE REMAIN PERPLEXED
BY THE UK POSITION SINCE AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR
THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED WOULD SEEM FEASIBLE. US
HAS PERSISTENTLY SAID IT WOULD NOT PRESS ON BANANAS AND
CANNED GRAPEFRUIT, WHICH SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR UK TO
COMPROMISE ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US. MOREOVER, WE ARE
PUZZLED BY CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE
DAMAGE FINDING OF PANEL, SINCE IF WE ULTIMATELY DO TAKE
WITHDRAWALS, WE WOULD DO SO ON EXPORTS OF UK TO US, WITH-
OUT DAMAGING CARIBBEAN TRADE INTERESTS.

3. WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE PREPARING COMMENTS ON PANEL
PROPOSALS (REF C) FOR LATER USE. IN INTERIM, AS INDICATED
IN REF A, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS ON
TARIFF QUOTA PROPOSAL. WE ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE PANEL
EXPLANATION OF HOW QUOTE PRISE- EN- CHARGE UNQUOTE SYSTEM
WOULD OPERATE. IF PANEL UNABLE TO OBTAIN UK COMMITMENT
TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS WITH A VIEW TOWARD SOLUTION, WE
WOULD PREFER PANEL MAKE LEGAL DETERMINATION. WASHINGTON
AGENCIES ARE PREPARED (IN RESPONSE PARA 6 OF REF B) TO
ELABORATE ON US LEGAL VIEWS. ROGERS

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